

DC GAZETTE

VOL VII NR 3

MARCH 1976

DC EYE

THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF THE SCHOOL BOARD is nothing to cheer about, but with our first competent school superintendent in years it may not matter that much. Therman Evans and Bettie Benjamin, elected in January as President and Vice President of the Board, have been two of the weakest members of that body. The Star reported that a check of committee attendance between March and October showed that Evans and Benjamin had the worst records. But Evans has been an unabashed member and that may prove to be an asset.

THOSE STORIES about the lost ballot boxes were funny, but they left the impression that the Board of Elections was to blame for the screwup. In fact, the Environmental Services pickup trucks used to carry the boxes each had a policeman riding shotgun with the sole job of guarding the boxes. The task proved too much for two of the cops.

ONE OF THE VICTIMS of the city council's budget machinations was the plan to close Incinerator #5. The council knocked out money for large trash trucks to haul waste to the Lorton landfill. Incinerator #5 is a major polluter, including spewing dangerous quantities of lead into the air.

THE POTOMAC RIVER averaged 10 billion gallons a day flowing past DC during 1975. This was the fourth largest flow since records began being kept in 1930. All this water dumped 2.6 million tons of sediment most of which settled in the Potomac below Washington.

DC PIRG has called for statehood for DC in its most recent issue of DC PIRG Reports. Says DC PIRG, "The biggest roadblock to statehood is the widespread illusion that self-determination is already upon us."

THE WASHINGTON POST Company, with two strikes going (one by its local pressmen and the other in its Canadian pulplands) made a paltry \$12 million profits in 1975 compared with \$14.4 million in 1974. . . The Post seems to be winning its battle to become a de facto non-union paper. With the Guild unit in the pocket of management and other units agreeing to contracts out of fear that they will be replaced like the pressmen, Katherine Graham is well on her way to becoming the most successful union-buster of the decade.

THE GREY PANTHERS have gotten some local banks to give free banking services to people over 60. The age varies from bank to bank but some of the cooperating banks are DC National, First National, McLaughlen, National Savings & Trust, Public National, United National and National. For more information call the Grey Panthers at 296-8000. The Grey Panthers also have a health action committee organizing for comprehensive health care, national health insurance and local health issues. They need volunteers. Call Frances Klafter, 667-2131.

INDEPENDENCE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN, which makes 80% of its loans to the inner city, reports a 30% increase in assets for 1975.



THE LANDGRABBERS STRIKE AGAIN

STERLING TUCKER'S BILL to create a housing and economic development finance corporation is one of the most dangerous pieces of legislation to come before the city council since we've had one. It would create a nearly autonomous development authority with greater powers and fewer restrictions than the old RLA. The corporation could take land by eminent domain for only vaguely defined purposes, reselling it at a discount to private developers. Whole areas could be razed, a la Southwest, with citizens having even less ability to control the course of renewal. The money to support this scheme would come from revenue bonds, ostensibly backed by revenues from the corporation's projects, but almost certainly drawing upon the city for financing and, in case of default (as happened with the similarly designed New York Urban Development Corporation) upon the resources of the city to back up the bonds.

The bill seems a measure for the relief of the chairman's campaign contributors. For it is the developer-big business backers of Tucker who would benefit most from it. A complaint filed with the Board of Elections and Ethics by a number of local citizen groups lists about two-thirds of Tucker's individual campaign contributions as coming from those with a potential business interest in the bill. Over \$7000 of these contributions came to Tucker after the election. The complaint also reveals an interesting pattern of contributions. Although corporations are prohibited from contributing to local campaigns, many of the contributions from officials of the same firm were made on the same day. For example, five officials of Woodward & Lothrop contributed on the same day as did five officials of PEPCO. Nine present or past officials of Marriott contributed within a two-day period. And although not a corporation, the Danzansky law firm, by strange coincidence, found seven of its partners contributing on the same day. A letter from the citizens groups to Tucker points out that the DC Code states that "no public official shall receive anything of value, including a . . . loan [or] or political contribution. . . where it could reasonably be inferred that the thing of value would influence the public official in the discharge of his duties."

With only gossamer hopes of some low and moderate income housing coming out of the corporation (unlike some other state finance agencies the corporation would not be required to provide any money for such purposes), citizens could well find themselves fighting a new surge of land-grabs with some of their strongest weapons unloaded by provisions in the bill.

Here are some of the most important aspects of the bill:

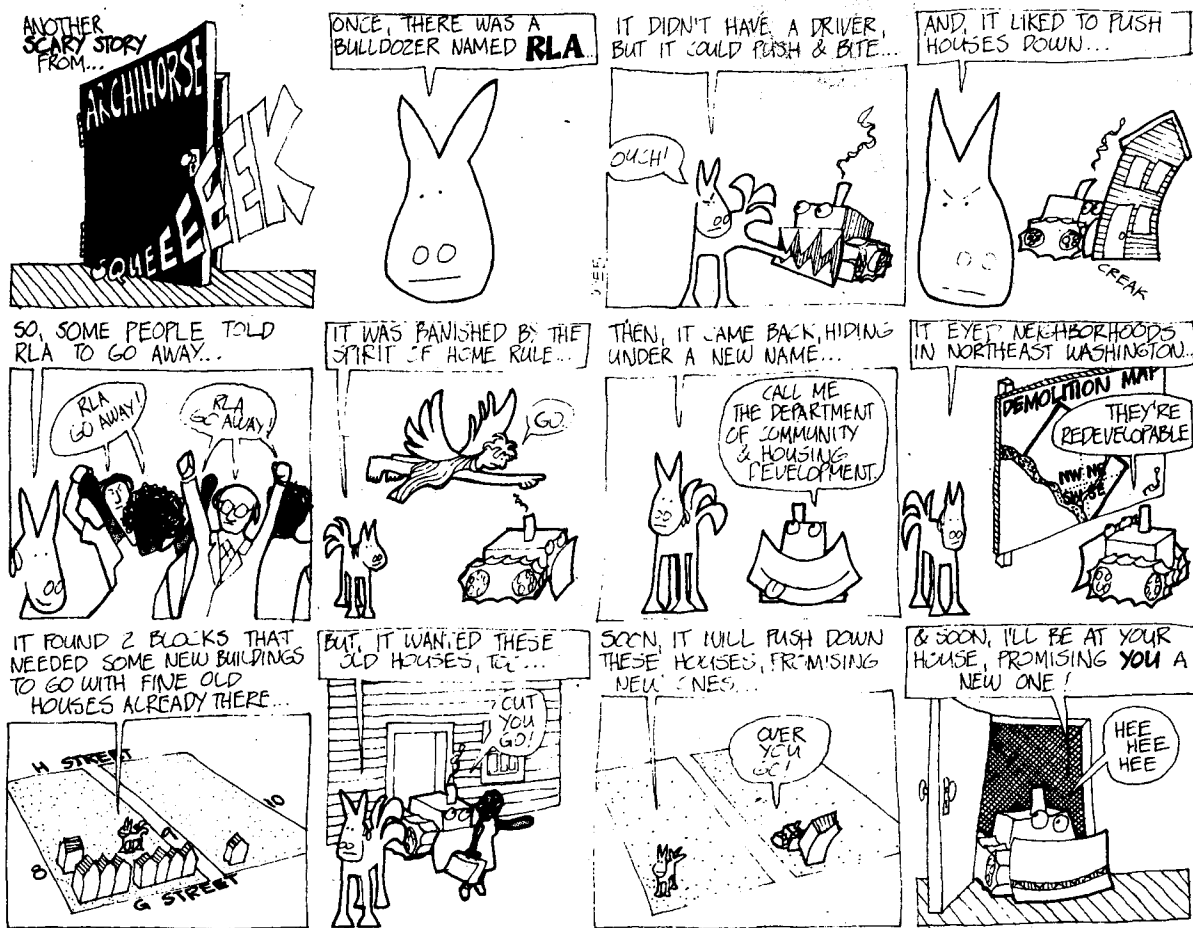
- Walter Washington and Sterling Tucker would get to name all the members of the corporation board.
- The major control over activities of the corporation would be an annual review of its proposed plans. There would be no project-by-project review. Once the overall plan had been approved, the corporation could proceed, seizing land and building with virtually no provision for citizen impact. For example, the corporation might submit a vaguely worded plan for downtown, get it approved and then announce that one of its projects would be a convention center. The city council might approve projects it didn't want in order to get those it did. Projects affecting the lives of hundreds or thousands of residents could be horsetraded like items in the city budget.
- The purposes for which the corporation could use its power are frighteningly unspecific. For example, one purpose is "to eliminate substandard, unsanitary, blighted, deteriorated and deteriorating areas which impede sound community growth." Another is the "clearance, replanning, reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas which impede sound community growth." (Emphasis added)

(Please turn to page 2)

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smartass New Yorkers coming down here and telling us what a terrible city this is? Small wonder that most of us would like to see New York City slide into bankruptcy and disappear from view."

METRO TICKS: A group assembled by the Library of Congress has called for a halt of Metrorail construction until a new study is made of alternatives to the present plans. This study was requested by Reps. Romano Mazolli and Stewart McKinney. Sterling Tucker, who is chairman of the Metro Board as well as of the City Council, responded to the report with his usual head-in-the-sand attitude about Metro. Tucker and Rep. Gilbert Gude claim that further delay "can only result in increased costs." The Gazette has called for an end to Metro construction for several years. With Metro's financial problems increasing daily, a growing number of former supporters of Metro are questioning the advisability of building a full system. . . Meanwhile the federal government's attitude toward Metro seems to be one of rampant ambivalence. Transportation Secretary William Coleman and President Ford have both recently called for completion of Metro but have failed to come up with any funds to do the job. Secretary Coleman said last month, "If construction costs can be kept to the \$4.6 billion now estimated the states of the Washington community can, through intelligent use of federal interstate transfer and local matching funds, resolve all the cost problems." Unfortunately there simply isn't enough money from these sources to do the job, even if construction costs could be kept at \$4.6 billion. In fact there is growing evidence that the system will cost at least \$5.5 billion to complete, maybe \$6 billion. . . Ron Sarras, assistant director of the area's Transportation Planning Board, responded to the Gazette's proposal to build streetcar lines instead of more subways in an article in the December 20 issue of Environmental Action. Reports Environmental Action: "TPB agrees that the original commitment to the subway may have been a mistake, and that using the old trolley lines might have been a less expensive and superior solution to the need for creating main transit corridors in the city. But back in the 1960's nobody was talking about light rail transit. Then the glamour of a highly technological subway, with a long list of innovations, won over the local politicians. But what's done is done, and it would be a mistake to look back at this time."

DC EYE

THE STAR'S LATEST carpet-bagging columnist, Willie Morris, got off to a bad start with one of those DC-as-crime-capital stories with which local residents are dreadfully familiar. Written in that peculiarly southern approach to violence, where you're never quite certain whether the author is decrying or eulogizing it, Morris's blood-dripping account was most notably awry in his effort to link crime and racial hostility. If DC's crime rate is an act of racial warfare, then hoards of white teenagers from Prince George's County must be pouring in Far NE and Anacostia in the night to cause mayhem. For, in fact, whites in DC suffer less than their proportional share of crime; it is black victims who get it most often.

Said Morris: "The talk here today is of violence. I have never quite seen anything like it. . . talking about the mayhem,

the sudden panic and the defenselessness." Well, we hear people talk about crime, complain about it, worry about it. But we wouldn't have put it quite in those terms. Who was Morris talking to?

Five days later it suddenly became clear. Morris wrote: "The other day, a moody winter afternoon following snow and slush, the streets of the town where I've taken residence were crowded with outlanders, mainly from the District four or five miles away and from the suburbs..." Morris wasn't even living here, but in Alexandria. We hope he finds time to get across the 14th Street bridge before he goes north towards home again. If the Star is going to run war reportage, its correspondents should at least visit the front.

The Star had made a great number of improvements over the past few months but its guest columnists have not been among them. William Grover, in a letter to the Washingtonian, put it rather nicely:

"How could any Washingtonian look with favor on the Star's continuing series of

MUSICAL, THEOLOGICAL & POLITICAL NOTES

Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy announced today that he will host and perform selections from his recent album at a concert tribute to senior religious leaders from the District of Columbia. . . The concert will be held on Sunday, February 29, 1976 at 7 pm at DAR Constitution Hall. . . Entitled "A Bicentennial Salute to the Ministry," the birthday concert will honor eight ministers who are recognized both nationally and locally for their outstanding moral and civic leadership. In announcing the concert, Congressman Fauntroy, who also serves as Pastor of the New Bethel Baptist Church, said, "As we enter our Bicentennial Year, I want my birthday party this year to be tribute to eight senior religious leaders in our Nation's Capital whose ministries have profoundly influenced my own life and whose contributions to the citizens of our Nation's Capital in this century have earned them the respect and admiration of people from all walks of life. I am proud to call these men the founding fathers of religious leadership for a better community. . . Proceeds from the sale of the tickets will go to the Committee for Fauntroy '76."

— WASHINGTON INFORMER

LANDGRAB Cont'd

What are deteriorating areas? All of Near NE? The West End? What is an area which impedes sound community growth? McLean Gardens? The Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenue corridors where building hasn't reached the zoning limits? Your neighborhood? And who gets to decide? Walter Washington and Sterling Tucker's cronies.

The language is shockingly broad and reminiscent of the long discredited urban removal philosophy that government officials have the right to declare a community obsolete and tear it down. Also disturbing is the fact that the bill nowhere requires the corporation to do anything for people who need help, such as low and moderate income residents. All the funds could go for such items as a convention center, high rise commercial development or luxury apartments. In contrast, the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, which operates as a superbank rather than as a super wrecker's ball, has such requirements as 25% low and moderate income housing in the projects it funds. But Oliver Carr, Linowes & Blocher, Joe Danzansky and the boys aren't interested in stuff like that.

- Although the city is ostensibly free of obligation in case of default, the bill envisions DC commitments "to guarantee, in whole or in part, the bonds of the corporation for the purpose of financing its projects and activities." Further, the bill speaks of a "debt service reserve" fund developed from public and private sources. Tucker obviously intends to hit the city for financing and guarantees. Once these commitments have been made, the city could be forced to underwrite the operation in event of default just to protect its investment.

- Relocation assistance is limited to that provided under present law which is woefully inadequate.

- In view of the intimate relationship between Tucker and the potential beneficiaries of the bill, it is noteworthy that there are no criminal liabilities for conflict of interest. The only liability is for "damages to the corporation" which may be unprovable even in a serious conflict situation.

- Finally, the bill provides for no review of its projects by the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

In short, it's an awful piece of legislation.

NEIGHBORHOOD

MARCH 1976

WEST OF THE PARK

THE ZONING Commission has put off until fall any decision on a proposal from CBI-Fairmac to create a new zone at McLean Gardens that will permit it to carry out its plans for an international complex at McLean Gardens. The commission has decided to wait until the National Capital Planning Commission has completed its study of the proposal and its relationship to the planned eight-embassy site at the Bureau of National Standards area. The decision is a victory for neighborhood groups which have been fighting for comprehensive planning for McLean Gardens and the surrounding area rather than for spot rezoning as proposed by the developers.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY is asking permission from the Board of Zoning Adjustment to construct a five story addition to the existing two story medical building on its premises at 3900 Reservoir Road.

ACCORDING TO Metro's latest estimates, the work on the subway between WTI and Friendship Heights will be completed the end of next year. The \$32 million contract in that section is about 20% complete. Meanwhile, the tunnels between WTI and the Zoo should be completed this August at a cost of \$31 million.

IN THE MIDST of the city budget discussions, Willie Hardy suggested selling the Volta Place police station for \$10,000 to raise extra funds for DC. She obviously hasn't been reading the real estate ads.

NEWSPAPER PICK-UPS west of the park will be made on Mar 3, 17 and 31. Tie your newspapers securely with cord or heavy string in bundles not more than two feet high. Place magazine and corrugated boxes with the regular trash and have your newspapers outside by 6 a.m. on the appropriate Wednesday.

THE TENLEY COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP is conducting a public opinion poll of 500 households in its area to help with its planning for a Tenley Sectional Development Plan. Residents are being asked the type of future growth they would like, the most important retail and service facilities desired, the most serious environmental problems and other questions.

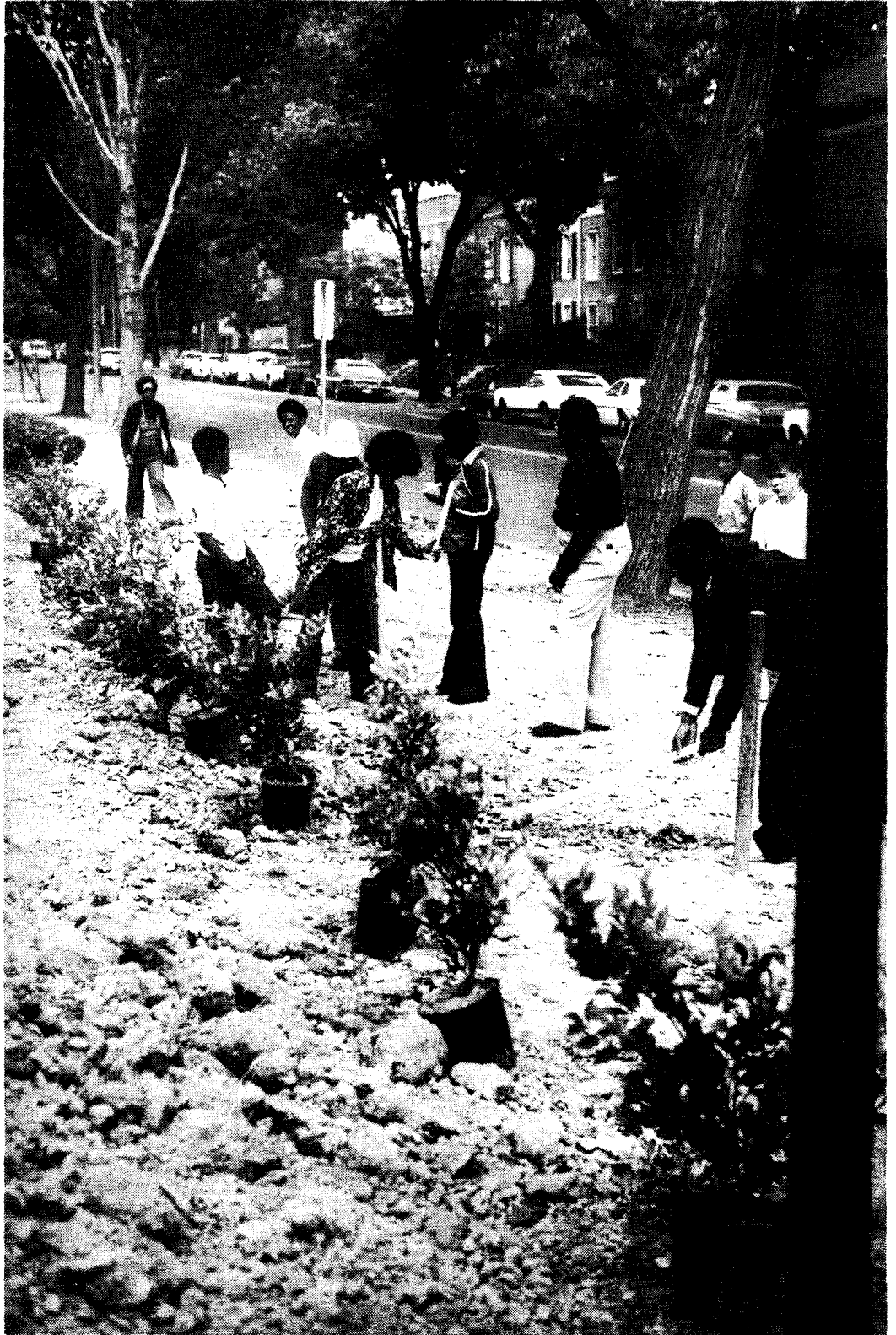
THERE'LL BE A SERIES of gardening seminars at 2nd District headquarters, Idaho & Newark, during March sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and the McLean Gardens Community Garden Club. The meetings are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and are open free of charge. The schedule is:

Mar 4: Organization of the 1976 community of gardens. Anyone interested in obtaining a garden plot this year must attend this meeting. Also soil preparation must be discussed.

Mar 11: Producing transplants, onions, cabbages and root crops.

Mar 18: Peas, tomatoes, peppers and beans.

Mar 25: Insects weeds and disease.
Info: 629-7704.



STUDENTS AT Hine Jr. High School planting shrubs to border their school yard along 8th St. SE as part of a DC Bicentennial project. (David Brosch photo)

AROUND THE CIRCLE

City ignores citizen plan for Circle area

MIMI UPMEYER

LAST June the North Dupont Community Association, after two years of detailed and painstaking research, submitted a comprehensive zoning proposal for the Circle area to the Zoning Commission. The study was referred to the Municipal Planning Office for analysis.

Now, instead of responding to the citizen proposal, MPO has started a planning program of its own to be completed by October.

Alvin R. McNeal, the staff planner assigned by MPO to the area, says that the NCDA plan was "too general," and that he "did not sense widespread community support. Some groups in the community were not consulted. Brookings, developers,

were not involved in the planning process. . . They have an impact. You have to work with them." McNeal also said of the proposal: "If you arrest development, supply would decrease, demand increase and prices increase."

Ward Bucher, NCDA steering committee member, points out that the purpose of the proposal, "which will be refined as we go along," is "not simply to preserve, but to guide what will happen in the future. . . This is not a downzoning proposal. It increases commercial development in some areas, decreases it in others.

Answering McNeal's criticisms, Bucher says, "I don't know how much more speci-

fic you can get than getting into actual zoning boundaries. . . I don't think Brookings is part of our community. They are not residents and don't represent the 19,000 people who live here. That's who we represent."

The goals of the NCDA plan are these:

- To preserve a wide range of housing alternatives for all income groups and for households of all sizes;
- To provide opportunities for the expansion of the neighborhood's housing stock;
- To accommodate diplomatic and non-profit uses in portions of the neighborhood without jeopardizing the housing stock;
- To provide a physical environment favorable for the survival of small shops and businesses serving both neighborhood and regional markets;
- To provide a clear boundary between the neighborhood and the Central Business District; and
- To preserve the neighborhood's ambience and Victorian architectural character.

The NCDA has made several detailed maps of the area (bounded by Fla. Ave., 15th St, M St and 23rd St), some of which show current land use, building heights, development potential, existing zoning and proposed zoning. One of the most arresting maps shows those buildings most likely to be developed based on how much floor area they are using under the present allowable limits. Those buildings using only 1%-50% of the possible floor area are ripe for demolition and, predictably, are concentrated on Conn. Ave. above the Circle, Mass. Ave. and 16th St.

Two of the zones which the NCDA would like to see changed are: C3B, a high rise commercial zone, and SP (special purpose), zoned for non-profit, diplomatic and residential uses but open to high rise development.

Under the NCDA proposal, C3B would be changed along P St to the Circle and up Conn. Ave. to Category A (C3B below the Circle, already well developed, would remain). Category A would be used for residential, retail and entertainment and office space for businesses with less than 8 employees. The height limitation would be 50' (rather than 90'). The purpose of Category A is to favor the "survival of small shops. . . and to encourage residential use of space above street level."

The change in SP zoning, currently with a 90' height limitation and concentrated along 16th St., Mass. Ave. and 18th St., would create three zones instead of one. SP3 would be the same as the existing zone and would be used south of Scott Circle. SP2, along 16th St., Mass. Ave and New Hampshire Ave. would restrict heights to 60', would allow construction of new medium density residential buildings on vacant lots, and would permit pre-1910 buildings to be used for non-profit and diplomatic uses. SP1, with 45' heights, in areas near the Circle between the major avenues, would be for townhouse and multi-family zoning, but would allow non-profit or diplomatic uses in pre-1910 buildings of 10,000 square feet or more.

For more information on the NCDA plan, call Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy at 872-0207.

AROUND THE HILL

THE CITY COUNCIL has eliminated plans to expand the First District stationhouse in Southwest. The action apparently means that the First District substation at 500 E SE will continue in operation. The Police Department wants to eliminate this substation, the last in the city. The SW Neighborhood Assembly testified before the council urging that the planned expansion in SW be dropped. The effort to close

the substation goes back almost ten years to a time when the police began consolidating its precinct stations into district headquarters. At the time, the DC Gazette and many citizens opposed the consolidation, arguing that it would further remove the police from the community and would neither cut the crime rate nor improve efficiency.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE's shuttle buses through Capital Hill from RFK Stadium have been discontinued. The buses, which ran every 20 minutes between the Mall and RFK, had a peak of 30 passengers a day in October but dropped to five a day in January. Meanwhile, the US Department of Transportation has put off until April a bigger program of shuttle buses it had intended to institute in March.

THE CAPITOL HILL DAY SCHOOL held an open house last month. The school, located at the Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St., has students from pre-school to 6th grade. For more information about the school contact Charlotte Myklebust at 547-2244 or Mrs. John Hogan, 544-2532.

HERE are preliminary results in contested Advisory Neighborhood Commission elections on Capitol Hill:

Near NE Commission

- District 10: George Gurley 28, David Simmons 20
- District 11: Judy Wolf 40, Charles Paine 7
- District 15: Donald Stocks 31, Jack Phelan 29

Near SE Commission

- District 1: Janet Gordon 51, Ruth Rappaport 25, George Williams 6
- District 3: Paul Beatley 58, Fran Kraft 37, Rollin Dority 26, Judith Lombard 21
- District 4: Raymond Gooch 52, Paul Hayes 49, Pat Moesker 32
- District 5: Jan Eichhorn 64, Neil Scott 34
- District 6: Peter Eveleth 83, Judy Wasserman 41, Juanita Harr 36
- District 7: Ellen Seidman 60, Lillian Queen 23, Jesse Anderson 7
- District 8: Diane Della-Loggia 22, Nancy Hartnagle 20, Alvin Frances 19, Laura Trexler 15, Allen Boyd 8

Here are the new neighborhood commissioners for Capitol Hill:

Commission A (Near N.E.)

- Dist. 10 - George Gurley, 239 A 12th P., NE
- Dist. 11 - Judy Wolf, 816 Mass. Ave, NE
- Dist. 12 - Walter Jones, 406 11th, NE
- Dist. 15 - Donald Stocks, 314 7th, NE
- Dist. 16 - Robert Bailey, 308 Maryland Ave, NE
- Dist. 17 - Anton Wood, 522 3rd, NE

COMMISSION 6B (Near S.E.)

- Dist. 1 - Janet Gordon, 520 Constitution Ave, NE
- Dist. 2 - Phoebe Bannister, 123 North Carolina Ave, SE
- Dist. 3 - Paul Beatley, 720 N. Carolina Ave, SE
- Dist. 4 - Raymond Gooch, 204 5th SE
- Dist. 5 - Jan Eichhorn, 512 A 6th, SE
- Dist. 6 - Peter Eveleth, 920 N. Carolina Ave, SE
- Dist. 7 - Ellen Seidman, 1115 C SE
- Dist. 8 - Diana Della-Loggia, 349 10th, SE

IF YOU'D LIKE to receive advance notices of films at the new Capitol Hill I & II Theatres, send a card to them at 507 8th St. SE. Some of the best films coming up this month include "Cat Ballou" and "What's Up Doc?" Mar 3-5; "Tom Jones" on Mar 11-13; "The Lavender Hill Mob" on Mar 14-16; two Beatles films on Mar 20-23 and "The Man in the White Suit" and "Kind Hearts and Coronets" on Mar 27-30. . . . There are also children's film on Saturdays, such as "Charlotte's Web" on Mar 20-21.

POET AND TRANSLATER James Wright will give a reading at the Folger Library on Mar 8 at 8 pm. Free. Info: Leni Spencer, 546-2461.

ON APRIL 4, the Potomac Brass Players perform American music at the Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol Street, beginning at 3 pm. Free.

THAT new building for Eastern Liberty Federal Savings and Loan now going up at 600 Pennsylvania SE, will feature solar heating. Some 200 square feet of solar energy panels are built into the building's mansard roof and an anti-freeze solution circulating through the roof panels will collect the heat to be stored in a large tank. Each room will have temperature controls and the system is designed to operate using either conventional or solar heating.

HARRIS Bowers, who for 11 years served as a renowned straw boated cheeseman of Eastern Market, has died at 66.

THE Rev. Richard E. Downing has come to St. James Episcopal Church as its new rector. Formerly with St. Paul's in Baden, Maryland, Downing is a native of Michigan and a graduate of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He graduated from General Theological Seminary in 1969.

REGISTRATION for the Spring Session classes for adults and children in dance, art, drama and music given by the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop will take place from noon until 7 pm March 17th, 18th and 19th at The Workshop, located in the chapel of the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 201 4th Street, SE. Info: 543-2081.

A & P'S Valentine day's present to Capitol Hill was the closing of their 12th & Pa Ave store. The check-cashing files have been moved to their Benning Road store.

CIRCLING THE CIRCLE

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL #13, which covers an area from Kalorama Circle to the Mall and from the Potomac River to 16th St., is currently administered by Patty Connors at the Gallinger Recreation Center, 2141 F NW and holds community meetings the first Thursday of the month at 630 pm at the Francis Junior High School Cafeteria, 24th & N NW. Ms. Connors says there is a need for more participation by adults in making funding decisions. Nominations for the NPC #13 board, which decided how to allocate the \$82,000 budget for the area, will be held at the Mar 4 meeting. There are four openings for adults and three for youth. Ms. Connors also says that a new funding cycle will begin in April and that anyone interested in running a program involving or employing teenagers should contact her by the end of March. (338-4428 after noon).

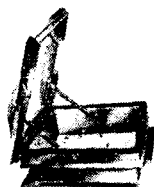
Some of the programs which receive NPC 13 funds are Strongforce, the Ecology Project, El Centro, the Community Garden Project, Zocalo, the Francis Teen Center, and Cityscape Magazine. - MIMI UPMEYER

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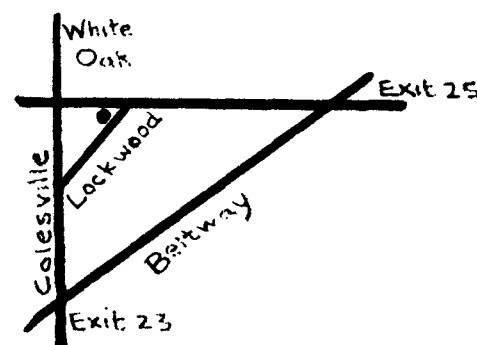
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

TO CONTRIBUTE to Guatemalan Relief call 381-8650 or the Red Cross at 737-8300. Checks may be sent to "Fund for the Relief of Guatemala," Riggs Bank, Dupont Circle Branch, 1913 Mass. Ave. NW, DC 20036

THE WASHINGTON Business Center in cooperation with American University and the Small Business Administration is holding classes on "Owning and Operating a Business for Profit" on March 3-April 21. Info: 686-2521.

THE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT CENTER and the Support Center are holding a seminar on "If You Went Out of Business Tomorrow, Who Would Care?" On March 8 at the King Library, 9th & G NW. Registration is \$5. (265-2443). The sessions are designed for local community groups and non-profit organizations.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING Commission meets Mar 4 at 930 am at 1325 G NW, 10th floor. Info: 382-1161



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RAISING!!!

Or print your newsletter, flier or whatever in the Gazette at our special rate for pre-paid, camera-ready copy from non-profit community groups: \$28 a page, \$14 a half page, \$7 a quarter-page. Deadline: third Tuesday of the month. Call 543-5850 for details.

REACH THE CHANGE-MAKERS THROUGH THE DC GAZETTE.

Classifieds

Classified ads are \$1 for the first 20 words and 5¢ for each additional word. Payment must be enclosed with ad. Deadline: Third Tuesday of the month. Mail to DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002.

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DC GAZETTE
MARCH 1976



Images of Washington's past, such as this view of F St. in 1900, are seldom seen in the local press—a symptom of a general lack of interest in the history of residential Washington. This photograph is from the Brady Handy collection, Library of Congress.

RECOVERING WASHINGTON'S PAST

KATHY SMITH

A Report on The Conference on Washington, D.C. Historical Studies

SEVERAL years ago a local newspaper photo showed the official papers of the outgo-city council chairman piled haphazardly in a District Building hall with no apparent destination.

It seemed no one knew what to do with them. In the end, they were sent to a repository in St. Louis, a long way from future Washington historians.

Historians and archivists wince when they hear that story for it is acutely symptomatic of an old malady of Washington DC — it does not care much about its own past.

This disinterest or unawareness of the city as a positive place with its own unique history and culture is probably greater than in any other American city. The media has so long treated Washington as a stage setting for national events and powerful people that the history of the residential city has been lost in the glare of the spotlights on the monuments.

In addition, the general neglect of black history in the country has, until recently, left many chapters unwritten about a city which was over 25% black at its birth and now is three-quarters black.

There is no city museum. There is no local history curriculum for the public schools. Tourist guides ignore the city beyond the monuments. Film strips and movies on Washington focus mainly on the federal city. There is no official archives for the city of Washington and no local institution has an active program for collecting old Washington materials. The materials that do exist are scattered between four major repositories and many lesser ones; and no general guide to them exists.

Anxiety about these issues has reached a high level for many of the several hundred people who gathered at the Martin Luther King Library January 23 and 24 for the Annual Conference on DC Historical Studies. Begun three years ago by the Columbia Historical Society and the George Washington University, the conferences have, for the first time, drawn together the disparate agencies and people interested in the history of residential Washington.

University professors, graduate students, elementary and secondary school teachers, museum administrators and education specialists, librarians and archivists, public officials, preservationists, lay historians, members of civic associations, old and young, black and white, have been attracted to the conferences in increasing numbers.

One conference organizer was Roderick French, representing the Division of Experimental Programs at GW. French believes the period of neglect of DC history is over and cites the return to home rule and the Bicentennial celebration as

major factors in the renewed enthusiasm for the subject. Other organizers were Francis' Coleman Rosenberger, editor of the Columbia Historical Society Records, and Letitia Brown, professor of American Civilization and History at GW.

While earlier conferences had featured papers on aspects of city history, this one turned three of its six sessions over to the nuts and bolts problems of writing, studying and teaching local history in Washington and zeroed in on several major

A DC GAZETTE SPECIAL REPORT

issues: the lack of a coordinated archival program for Washington and the absence of a vehicle (such as a school curriculum or city museum) for educating city residents about their heritage. The conference also generated the excitement and ideas that can result from bringing people of like concerns together, many for the first time.

Even the conference organizers were surprised to find, for example, that the panel on the status of official city records was bringing together for the first

time all the key people from the major collections of Washington archival materials. The result was so successful that an attempt is now being made to ensure continued communication.

For several years, a number of people in various parts of the city have been talking about starting a city museum, but before the conference, they had not had the opportunity to try their thoughts out on one another as a group.

Similarly, the experiences of panelists who had been experimenting with new ideas to interest young people in local history were met with great enthusiasm by those who had been struggling to develop their own local history projects with the very scanty resources presently available.

A highlight of this 1976 conference was the bonus of a guest lecture by noted urban historian Richard C. Wade, Distinguished Professor of History at the City University of New York.

While the conference generated almost intense enthusiasm, more than one participant left voicing the sad realization that the problems were still unsolved and that they might have to wait for next year's conference to feel the enthusiasm again.

There were indications, however, despite an aura of isolation fostered by the windowless basement conference room, that the ideas sparked there would ensure that the door to understanding DC's past will never again be closed quite as tightly as it has been.



Math class on a field problem in Washington, D.C., about 1900. From the Frances Benjamin Johnson collection, Library of Congress.

THE MOVE FOR A CITY MUSEUM

"IT sounds to me like you don't want a museum at all; you want an information center," summed up museum panel moderator Wilbur H. Hunter, director of the Peale Museum in Baltimore.

John Kinard, director of the Smithsonian's Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, hotly and eloquently challenged this summary as an example of the most "sterile and medieval" concept of what a museum ought to be, and asserted the general enthusiasm he felt for a lively city museum which would be strong enough to "tell it like it is."

So ended perhaps the most anticipated session of the Conference on DC Historical Studies which brought together most of the leading figures in the growing movement to establish a history museum of the city of Washington. The selection as moderator of Hunter, the director of an established and traditional city museum, set the stage for a lively confrontation between concepts of what a museum ought to be.

So far all the plans and enthusiasm for a local museum have come to naught because no individual or group has been able to organize the kind of broad-based support necessary to raise the money.

While the session did not produce a consensus on how to proceed, it did result in a unifying theme: If we are to have a city museum, it must be "useful" in order to justify its existence in the face of so many overwhelming human needs in the city. It must not be an uninterpreted collection of artifacts in an old building, but rather a lively place where history is interpreted in terms of its significance for the way our city grows and changes and for how our people, young and old, think of themselves and their place in the world.

Leading off the discussion was Earl James, representing a new effort to combine all factions in a unified drive for a city museum. Called the City Museum Project, Inc. the group began last summer around a nucleus of graduates of the George Washington University graduate program in museum education.

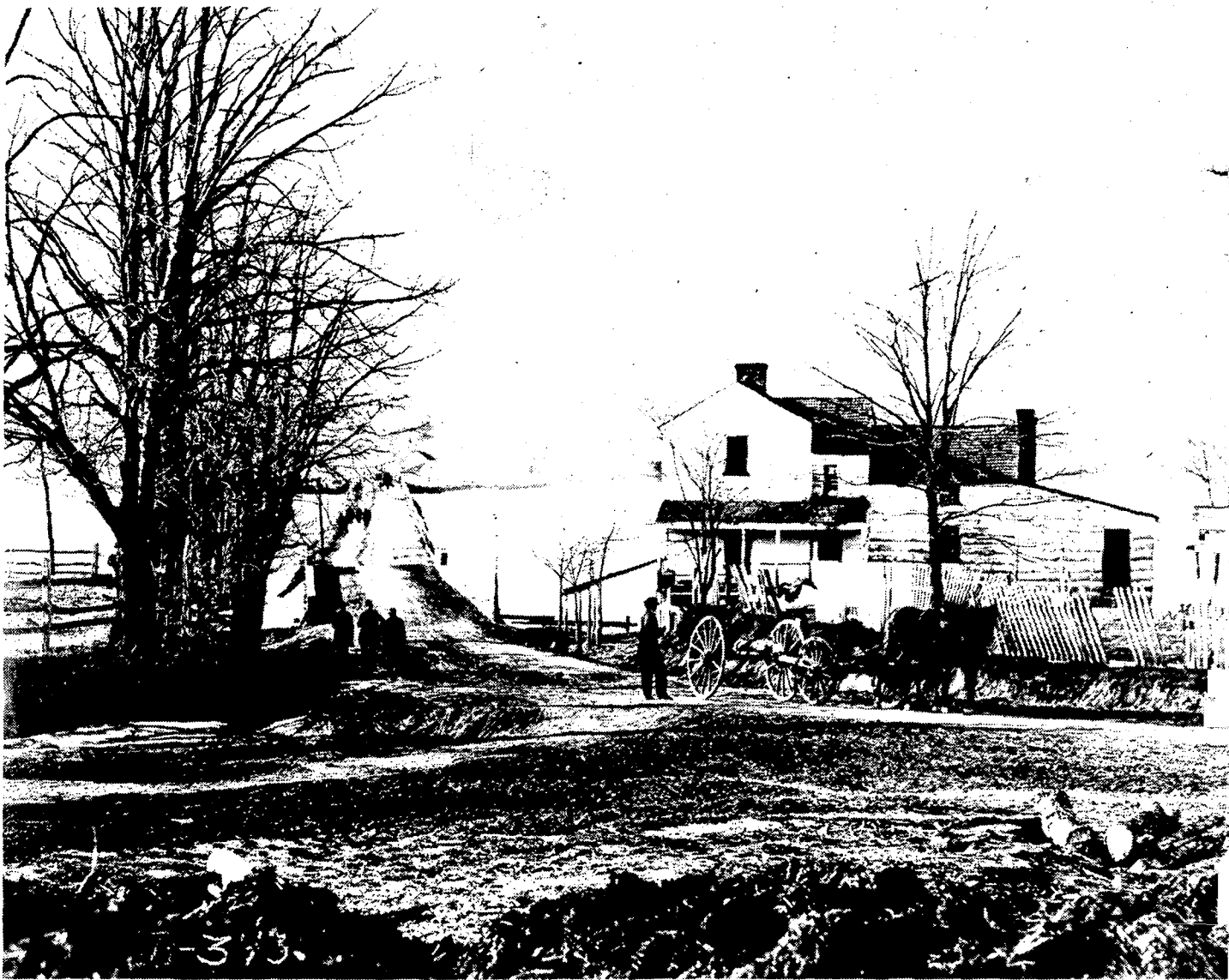
James proposed that while the group is looking for the means to start a museum, it seek foundation funds for two projects which could eventually be included in it: a central index of all collections of Washingtoniana in the city and a cooperative collecting consortium to being actively collecting Washington historical materials.

He urged the establishment of a community advisory board which would unify all the diverse groups interested in a museum and which could begin to exhibit private collections in private buildings.

John Fondersmith of the city's Municipal Planning Office and author of the city's Bicentennial position paper, "Making Washington Visible," picked up the theme stressed by most panel members: the museum must serve a useful purpose to justify its existence.

Fondersmith saw great justification in the need to "accelerate civic knowledge and pride" if citizens are going to participate with planners in a joint process of planning the future of our neighborhoods.

"Civic pride is growing, but not fast enough," he said in pointing out that he believed the museum must deal with the present and future as well as the past and



Anacostia Bridge, about 1865

Library of Con

function as an education center as well as a museum. As an example, he cited the need for a Washington bookstore which could be part of such a museum and would offer everything available on the subject of the city.

Fondersmith proposed that the new Smithsonian Bicentennial exhibit that features the 1901 McMillan Plan for Washington and the exhibit planned by the DC Office of Bicentennial Programs comprise the display nucleus of the city museum.

It was John Kinard who stressed most eloquently that the city museum must be useful in helping young people understand their place in the world. To do this, the museum must "tell all of the truth, not just the truth that can be told."

In describing how traditional museums have ignored the working man, and how museums have reflected racism and bigotry in the past, he emphasized that this museum must not be just a collection of relics. "Interpretation is weightier than having the things."

"When I was a youth in the DC schools, I got the feeling that everything that could be done was already done," he said in talking about the need to widen the horizons of the city's youngsters.

"They think history is boring. They need to see that history is power and one is lost to oblivion without it. We can't run this city without a keen understanding of its history."

Harris Shettel, who has been evaluating museums for ten years for the American Institutes for Research, supported Kinard's contention that museums have been elitist institutions. He said that people are now asking museums to document their reason for existence beyond the traditional collection of what he called "happiness data" — casually asking visitors as they leave, "Did you like it?" — to which the answer is usually a vague affirmative.

He cited a recent exhibit on the environment: 80% of the visitors were found to have some college education. While museums claim to be trying to appeal to all segments of the population, in fact they don't because the materials are not appealing and the explanations not readily understandable. He cited the display

of the Smithsonian's Hope Diamond as a prime example of a display with a complete lack of interpretation.

Shettel emphasized that the museum must be an integral part of education in the city and that the schools should use it as a part of their curriculum. To ensure its usefulness, a full time person should be employed to evaluate exhibits as they are being planned, not after the fact.

Panelist Frederick Gutheim, architect, planner, author, consultant and presently director of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at George Washington University, has thought about the problem for many years. He had presented a proposal for a city museum to the mayor several years ago which had met with no response.

"I came here to learn something new," he said, "so far I haven't. . . It seems to me we are sending to a museum address problems that haven't been solved by other institutions — our schools and libraries."

He suggested other priorities than setting up a city museum. "First of all, make the Columbia Historical Society work by giving it some money." He stated that there was not another historical society like it in the country that did not receive any public support.

"We need to make the public libraries work. That is where the neighborhood research will be done."

Giving money to make these already established institutions work would be better than "pie in the sky, by and by."

Vincent DeForest, head of the Afro-American Bicentennial Commission, who has also been thinking about the city museum idea for several years, stood from the audience to support Kinard's statement that the traditional museum is elitist.

"The word museum represents a Western concept to me," he said, explaining that it did not imply the broad functions he could see such a new institution performing.

When moderator Hunter persisted in summing up the entire session by questioning the need for a museum, Kinard jumped to his feet to defend the enthusiasm he and others in the room felt. "We shouldn't think of what a museum is in terms of its definition by the American Association of Museums. We should be thinking about what a museum could become."

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AN ARCHIVES TO MAKE THE CITY VISIBLE

WHEN Perry Fisher, Director of the Columbia Historical Society, completed his recent history of Dupont Circle, he counted 26 separate libraries and agencies in the city he had to visit to find the materials he needed.

He used his experience as an example of the kind of confusion which greets all who try to do historical research in Washington. "This city has a long history of record abuse," he said.

Fisher was one of five people from the major collections of Washington materials to share a panel discussion on the location, condition, and accessibility of official city records.

Since these people had never met as a group before, the panel became an opportunity to review the status of all manuscript records in the city. As each, in turn, reviewed their own collections, the two-fold problem became clear: there is no institution in the city with the mandate and the money to actively collect and service city records and there is no central guide to the existing collections spread throughout the city in public and private agencies.

Dorothy Provine, who specializes in Washington materials in the Civil Division of the National Archives, explained that since 1961 the National Archives has been receiving city records under a "hazy and voluntary relationship" begun at the city's request. The Archives does not have the authority to actively seek city records since DC is not a federal agency. Therefore, it is up to the initiative of department heads as to which files, if any, are kept.

For example, the Archives has never received any papers from the city council and no means of communication between the council and the Archives has been set up. "I don't think the City Council knows the Archives exist," said Ms. Provine.

Fisher said Washington records have been

nishandled from the beginning. He believes the frequent changes in city government have been a major factor.

All of the papers of the three original commissioners put in charge of the federal city by George Washington in 1790 were lost when they were transferred from Georgetown to Washington City in 1800.

All but one volume of the proceedings of the elected city council of Washington City from 1802 to 1870 are missing — "a tragic loss" in the words of Dorothy Provine. Fisher noted that as early as 1901, Washington historian Wilhelmus Bogart Bryan surveyed records of this period and found that many of the journals were already inexplicably lost.

In 1947, the Columbia Historical Society conducted a survey of 31 boxes of excellent city records found in the basement of the District Building, but the records and the inventory are now completely gone. Not even the person who did the survey knows what happened to them.

Fisher pointed out that historians of the future will have even more trouble writing history without public records than they did in the past because the local newspapers no longer cover the city as thoroughly as some did in the 1800's.

"This city needs an archivist to make it visible," Fisher summed up, adding that the Columbia Historical Society, which operates on limited funds, must content itself with taking in contributions of manuscripts and photographs which document the social history of the city.

Betty Culpepper, head of the Washingtoniana Room at the Martin Luther King Library, the most complete and accessible depository of DC materials, explained that official city records were dispersed throughout the library's 20,000 books and 10,000 photographs.

While the Washingtoniana Room has a mandate to "collect and preserve" Washington materials, staff and funds permit the active solicitation only of published governmental records, with which only some city agencies comply.

Carolyn Sung of the Library of Congress Manuscripts Division also called for an active collecting program, noting that her division has only scattered city records

which are buried with great quantities of personal papers of presidents, local and national organizations and prominent Washingtonians.

The Library of Congress has no authority to go out and collect DC records and will take volunteered materials only if they are related to current collections.

"The papers of the Columbia Typographical Union are going 1,000 miles away," she said, "because no local agency is equipped to take them." Ms. Sung feels this loss personally since the papers are related to her own study of early printer Peter Force, a mayor of Washington City in the 1830's.

Albert Mindlin, the District's chief statistician, and his assistant in the Washington Statistical Services Division, Nathan Levy, outlined the types of material they have available, both in their computer and in manual files. Their presentation also pointed up to the diffuse nature of Washington materials. They reminded the audience that many of the city's records are scattered among federal agencies such as the Social Security Administration, Census Bureau, National Capital Parks and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Audience questions centered on which local agency could take the initiative and find money for the expensive job of collecting, processing and servicing a Washington archives. The local universities were suggested, with George Washington University as the most likely candidate because of its previous contributions to Washington history.

Meanwhile the urgency of the need persists. "Where are the records of the Board of Trade?" someone asked. No one seemed to know. In this city where, in the absence of any self-government, the Board of Trade played a crucial role in the city's development, that is an important question. The fact that none of the many libraries in this city has the money or the mandate to find out, is a most clear example of our problem.

For extra copies of this report, write the DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002. For more information on matters discussed in this report call Kathy Smith at 543-5850

URBAN CRISES IN PERSPECTIVE

IN AN address designed to put American urban crises in historical perspective, urban historian Richard C. Wade, Distinguished Professor at the City University of New York, argued that the problems of crime, poverty, pollution and corruption are actually less pressing today than they were 75 years ago. In support, he offered these turn-of-the-century examples:

- In 1900 New York City had double the homicide rate of today.
- There were 300,000 per square mile in lower Manhattan in 1900. Now we think 75,000 is terrible.
- Three of every five children died before the age of one in Chicago in 1900.
- In 1893 Chicago built a model school intended to bring the pupil-teacher ratio down to 55:1.
- In an article Wade researched and wrote for Life Magazine several years ago on the 25 best mayors in history, fifteen of them turned out to be post-World War II. "A reform mayor in the old days was one who didn't go to jail," said Wade.

But from his perspective in crisis-ridden New York (Wade said he may have the honor of having the only Folding Chair in History anywhere) and from travels to cities throughout the world, he has found two new and more solution-resistant problems: the division between the city and the suburbs and the division between black and white.

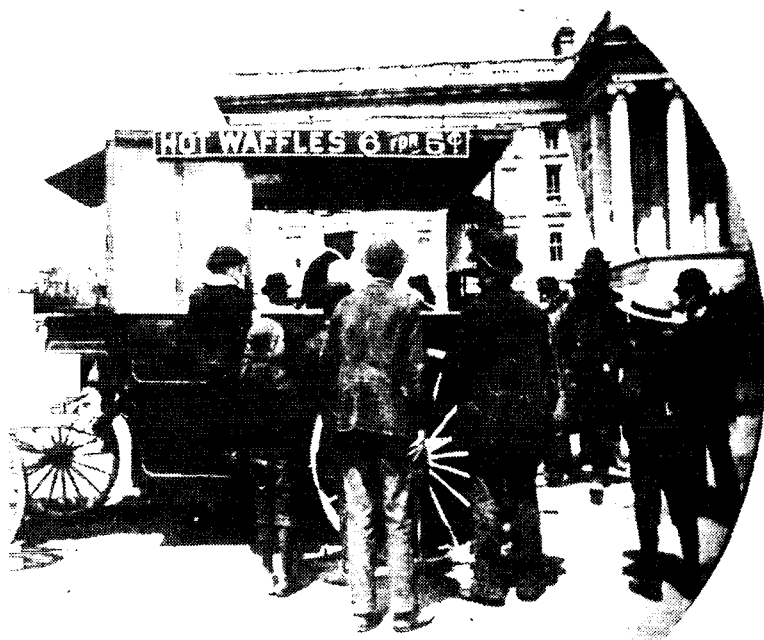
In the 1920s, he said, suburbs began the resist annexation and a "crab grass curtain" fell between city and suburb. Today's urban problems must be solved in a metropolitan scale, but the antagonism between the city and the suburb and the weakness of suburban governments are making this extremely difficult.

The racial tensions between black and white are the result of our first experience with "indelible immigrants," he said. While blacks created an extraordinary middle class in the northern ghettos faster than any immigrant group before them, the expected moves out of the ghetto were frustrated by race and motivation has dissolved into bitterness.

These two new elements are frustrating all our attempts to solve our urban problems, Wade believes. He sees greatest hope in creating new ways of scattering our low income population between city and suburb and suggested that the federal government require any multi-unit developer getting a federal subsidy of any kind to take 15% low or moderate income residents.

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PUTTING D.C. HISTORY IN THE SCHOOLS

TONY Sarmiento remembers his third grade teacher at Murch School telling his class, "Now you'd better listen carefully to this because you'll never hear it again."

The subject turned out to be DC history, and she was right. He never heard about it again. And what he learned then about his own hometown had mostly to do with the Washington Monument and little to do with the city he experienced day to day.

Sarmiento has since become the moving force behind a number of innovative programs designed to involve Washington young people in the history of the city, first through his work in the Mayor's Office of Youth Opportunity Services and presently in the DC Office of Bicentennial Programs.

He was one of four people who have been experimenting with new ideas to interest youngsters in local history to speak on a panel about teaching Washington history in the schools.

As they spoke, two things became clear. The study of history close to home can make this often maligned subject exciting for students of all ages. But the teacher who wishes to teach it must be highly motivated and have the time and energy to work up a program from scanty and scattered materials.

The Foxfire Project in Georgia, in which young people researched and wrote about their local culture and history, was a major influence on Sarmiento while he was working the Office of Youth Opportunities Services. He adapted the Foxfire concept to DC and initiated a summer project in 1973, financed through the Neighborhood Planning Councils and the DC Bicentennial, in which teenagers were given summer employment to produce walking tours of various neighborhoods.

These projects have evolved into two student-run magazines: *Origins*, a publication of Wilson High School students concentrating on the history of Cleveland Park and Chevy Chase, DC, and *Cityscape*, produced at Western High School and dealing with the history and culture of the Georgetown, West End and Adams Morgan neighborhoods.

Washington Rediscovery, a similar project coordinated by the Office of Bicentennial Programs last summer, put students to work on neighborhood research in urban renewal areas and, among other things, produced a booklet on Chinatown.

All of these projects shared common research methods: visual exploration of an area, studying written materials, and interviewing neighborhood residents. In some neighborhoods, there was little written information and there, Sarmiento said, the interviews were less successful. Lack of an easy-to-read general history of the city made getting a feel for Washington's past difficult for the students and was their major problem.

In addition to teaching local history and increasing the perception of young people looking at familiar places, Sarmiento said these projects have in many cases developed the young people's commitment to their community and to the city which was not there before. A number of these students have joined community groups and have volunteered to work in libraries on Washington materials.

He pointed out that the DC School Board passed a resolution last November requiring a DC history course by the 1976-1977 school year. He said he was working to see that Bicentennial money would be available to help prepare some of the materials necessary for such a course.

Susan Deerin spoke of the 1975 summer neighborhood history project sponsored by Project Two-W, a neighborhood-initiated, federally funded effort to improve education in the Wilson and Western high schools and their feeder schools. Ms. Deerin is in charge of enrichment activities for Project Two-W.

The summer program put 18 teachers from the Two-W schools to work researching the neighborhoods of their respective schools. It produced a DC history box which contained brief introductory histories of five neighborhoods, copies of materials related to land forms and architecture in DC and suggestions for games and projects designed to teach reading and math skills through the study of DC history. For example, the boxes contained an Adams Morgan monopoly game and a Southwest coloring book.

Duplicate copies of the box were provided the libraries of all 35 Project Two-W schools and central reference places such as the Department of Social Studies of the DC Schools and the Washingtoniana Room. While the box has been helpful to many teachers, Ms. Deerin said the box was just a first step toward the kind of curriculum materials needed to teach the subject effectively.

Leonard King, chairman of the humanities department at Maret School, told about developing a full semester, high school level course on the city from scratch.

His objectives were to get students involved with the city around them while at the same time to teach them research methods and writing skills. His focus

DC's past in books

○ **MATERIALS FOR THE STUDY OF WASHINGTON.** An annotated bibliography of books and publications about Washington. Compiled by Perry Fisher, director of the Columbia Historical Society. \$2.50

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and its present

○ **CAPTIVE CAPITAL.** The widely praised study of non-federal DC by Gazette editor Sam Smith. Includes a chapter summarizing DC history. \$8.95

○ **THE DC GAZETTE.** The city's lively alternative monthly that brought you this supplement and which each month tells you lots of other things about your city you won't read elsewhere. \$3 for a year's introductory subscription.

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included an understanding of current city problems as well as the culture and history of the city.

To do this he brought in speakers, planned field trips to the city council and local libraries and did simulations and role play. The students are currently studying the Adams Morgan neighborhood which, though near the school, is completely foreign to most of them.

The problems he encountered in developing this course included the tremendous amount of time and energy necessary to find appropriate materials and arrange for speakers and field trips. The pitfalls in student research he found were that students who were shy or lacked initiative had difficulty and that all students had trouble finding time to do the work along with heavy demands from other classes and outside activities.

He did find, however, that new materials are being created, there are many people anxious to help and that in going out and learning to use and understand the city, both he and his students are enjoying it more.

Panelist Brenda Nixon, executive director of Associates for Renewal in Education, first became interested in neighborhood study while teaching seventh grade geography. She realized that many of her students did not know the names of streets in their neighborhood nor could they locate neighborhood places on a map.

"Why should we deal with the geography of the world before students know the geography of their own world?" she asked.

The interest she developed working with neighborhood geography and history that year led eventually to a cochairmanship of the Cathedral-Woodson Cultural Heritage Project in 1974-75.

Ms. Nixon teamed her Far Northeast Woodson High students with the Northwest students of Lana Smith from Cathedral School, doing videotaped histories and walking tours of five neighborhoods. The project was funded by the Office of Bicentennial Programs.

Ms. Nixon emphasized that if a teacher lets students set the structure, they will go beyond the highest expectations.

She told a moving story of a group of young girls who decided that their neighborhood study would concentrate on the 14th Street corridor, particularly 14th & U. The project directors decided to squelch their own misgivings and encourage the group in their effort to produce a videotape which would show the real community behind the crime-ridden image of 14th St.

One year later, these students received some unexpected satisfaction. In showing the video tape to a group of reservists in a Washington suburb, one man came with tears in his eyes to thank them for explaining the special qualities of his boyhood neighborhood in a way he had never been able to do.

Several in the audience echoed the concern that teachers who want to teach this subject cannot find materials. Jean Pablo, a local history activist, said she had to go to Kansas City and spend \$40 for copies of the two-volume history of Washington by Constance McLaughlin Green, considered the standard modern history of the city, but now out of print. The conference unanimously agreed to urge the publisher, Princeton University Press, to reprint the books.

An elementary teacher asked Ms. Nixon whether elementary students were capable of doing local history research. "Start at home," was the answer. "Have the children interview parents, grandparents and other older people in the neighborhood." She also suggested the use of maps. "Get out of the classroom and walk through the neighborhood."

Sarmiento added that there were two parts of neighborhood research to consider: the process and the end product. "You can use the process with any level student," he said, "but the end product will differ."

"In any event," he noted, "you cannot substitute the end product of student research for the kind of curriculum materials which need to be produced by professionals."

CIRCLING THE CIRCLE

ARGUING FOR PASSAGE OF emergency legislation to place a moratorium on the conversion of apartments to cooperatives, councilmember John Wilson reported that at least 130 people in the Circle area were faced with evictions due to conversions. He cited examples in the 1800 block of Riggs, the 1700 block of Church, and the 1700 block of Corcoran. On Corcoran, where 100 people are threatened, Wilson said an English basement apartment now renting for \$253 was being turned into a \$31,500 co-op that would cost \$460 a month. The city council approved the coop moratorium.

Here are the names and addresses of the new neighborhood commissioners in the Adams Morgan-Dupont Circle area:

Commission 1C

- Dist. 1 - Alexander Brown, 1811 Vernon, NW
- Dist. 2 - Stephen Klein, 2032 Belmont Rd, NW
- Dist. 3 - Robert Love, 1863 California, NW
- Dist. 4 - Frederick P. Mascioli, 1940 Biltmore, NW
- Dist. 5 - Rich Siegel, 2853 Ontario Rd, NW
- Dist. 6 - Frank Smith, Jr. 1650 Harvard, NW
- Dist. 8 - Judy Richardson
- Dist. 9 - Edward G. Jackson, 2460 Ontario Rd, NW
- Dist. 10 - John Jones, 2440 16th NW
- Dist. 12 - Beulah Bullard, 1724 Swann, NW

Commission 1D (Kalorama)

- Dist. 1 - Margaret Johnson, 2122 California St, NW
- Dist. 2 - William Hoff, 2402 Wyoming Ave, NW

Commission 2B (Dupont Circle)

- Dist. 1 - James Haynes, 1807 19th, NW
- Dist. 2 - William Middleton, Jr., 1811 Riggs Pl, NW
- Dist. 3 - Carolyn Handy, 1618 S NW
- Dist. 4 - William C. Bastuk, 1400 20th, NW
- Dist. 5 - Susan Meehan, 1740 Corcoran, NW
- Dist. 7 - Sharon Williams, 2128 Newport St, NW
- Dist. 8 - Chris Walker
- Dist. 9 - Marie Drissell, 1325 18th

Commission 2A (West End)

- Dist. 1 - Anne Hume Loikow, 1010 25th, NW (#304)
- Dist. 2 - William Kummings, 1129 New Hampshire, NW
- Dist. 3 - Marthlu Bledsoe, 943 A 25th, NW
- Dist. 4 - Harold Davitt, 2401 H, NW
- Dist. 6 - James Slicer, 510 21st NW

MORE THAN 450 persons have inquired about the 170 apartments soon to go on the market at the Cairo Apartments, 1615 Que St, NW. The 1894 building owned by Inland Steel is being rehabilitated at a cost of nearly \$3 million along plans drawn up by Arthur Cotton Moore. The Cairo is the tallest private structure in Washington outside of the Washington Cathedral and reportedly so frightened some of its original neighbors that they moved lest the structure fall on them. Among its former residents was F. Scott Fitzgerald.

THE 18th and Columbia Rd. area is get-

ting funds from the Economic Development Administration for beautification. Included in the project is new lighting, trees, planters, benches and street signs.

JEANNE MACKEY AND Mary Trevor, two local musicians, will be giving their first full-length concert in DC on Mar 20 at 8 pm at All Soul's Church, 16th & Harvard NW. The pair have sung at universities, women's coffeehouses and benefits around the country. Off Our Backs calls them "one of the finest things to happen to the DC women's community this year." Tickets are \$2.50 in advance and \$3 at the door and can be purchased at Bread & Roses, 1724 20th NW, or Lammas, 321 7th SE.

HERE are the preliminary results for contested races in the ANC election in the Circle area:

Adams Morgan

- District 2: Stephen Klein 105, Walter Knauff 39
- District 4: Frederick Mascioli 63, Nahikian Saternik 44
- District 5: Rich Siegel 70, Carol Davis 52

Kalorama

- District 2: William Hoff 134, Stelita Renchard 61

Dupont Circle

- District 1: James Haynes 63, Lawrence Singer 4
- District 8: Chris Walker 5, Richard Lugent 2, George Wheeler 2

West End

- District 1: Anne Loikow 48, Robert Charles 32
- District 4: Harold Davitt 44, Howard Feldman 28
- District 6: James Slicer 55, Cecilia Aptaker 34

UP 16TH STREET

NEIGHBORS INC. is holding its annual cabaret at Tifereth Israel on March 14th. Info: 723-5130

NEIGHBORS INC. has recommended several food stores in its latest newsletter as offering ethnic delicacies not found in the supermarket. Among them are House of Hannah, 7838 Eastern Ave., which has fresh, canned and frozen oriental items as well as many gift items. The Marathon Market at 7510 Georgia Ave. has "great cheeses, olives etc." For Jamaican food, NI recommends Carib Two carry-out and restaurant on Georgia Ave. and the Acropolis food market at 1206 Underwood St. has Greek and Middle Eastern foods including philo leaves, nuts, grains and canned goods. Other recommendations are Red-Skinned Crabs on Georgia Ave., the Tropical Oasis for plants, Diane's Boutique, 1205 Tuckerman St., for women's clothes and Burt's at the corner of Piney Branch and Georgia Ave. for men's clothes.

SHEPHERD SCHOOL is planning a tutorial program for students in reading, math and socialization skills. They need volunteers who should get in contact with Joseph Carter, Jr. or Donna Graham at the school. . . DONNA GRAHAM, who is a third grade teacher at Shepherd, has also started a modern dance class on Tuesday afternoons. The first classes are already underway but for information on future sessions call 270-8059.

TIFERETh ISRAEL Congregation is presenting "Kasablan," an Israeli musical in Hebrew with English subtitles at 2 pm and 730 pm on March 14. Admission is \$2.50. Senior citizens and student rates. Free popcorn. Refreshments on sale.

WEST OF THE PARK

POLLY SHACKLETON'S ward office at the Chevy Chase Community Center is in need of volunteers. If you'd like to help call Harriet Burg at 686-5227.

WILBUR YOUNGMAN, former gardening editor of the Star and author of the Star's Garden Book, will speak at the Cleveland Park Garden Club at 730 pm on Mar 1 at the Cleveland Park Library. Open to the public.

THE NATIONAL CHILD RESEARCH CENTER is holding a theatre benefit on Tuesday, April 6 at a performance of "1600 Pennsylvania Avenue," a new musical by Leonard Bernstein and Alan Jay Lerner. For tickets call 363-8777.

THE TENLEY Friendship Public Library offers weekly films for children at 3:30 pm on Fridays. On Mar 19 there will be a program on "People of the New Republic." Adults are welcome.

FREE LUNCHES are offered for people over 60 Mon-Fri at Regency House Apartments, 5201 Conn. Ave, NW. Contributions are voluntary. Info: Mrs. Ferrell 353-3263.

IF you're looking for someone to do some work around your house or at your business try the Neighborhood Planning Council #3 Job Opportunity Program. Call 244-7774.

THE Service Area Committee #8 meetings are held the first Monday of each month at Palisades Library at 2:00 p.m. At these meetings public agencies answer questions from the community.

ACCORDING to the Star's Ear column, the anti-crime flag flying over the 2nd District Headquarters was recently stolen.

THE Palisades Food Cooperative has openings for new members. The Co-op charges \$5.00 a week and buys fresh fruit and vegetables for members who take turns doing the shopping. Info: Mary Anne Floto, 362-0566 or Esther Johnson, 537-1689.

THE washed out bridge at the Reservoir Rd. end of Archibold Park path has been rebuilt.

CHEVY Chase Parkway is one of the areas being beautified as part of Operation Curb.

THE Art Barn has its 2nd exhibition of the year going through Mar 7. Eight local artists are featured. The Art Barn, at the Tilden St. entrance to Rock Creek Park is open Tues-Fri, 10:30 - 2:30 and Sat-Sun, 10-4.

THE gymnasium at the Jelleff Boys and Girls Club has been renovated and new equipment has been provided. For information on programs at the club call 462-1317.

THE Hexagon Club's new production, "Barbs and Snipes Forever," will run Mar 5-Mar 20 at Trinity Theater, 36 & O, NW. Tickets for performances are available for \$3.00 and \$5.00 through Ticketron.

NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD is a supplement published by the DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE. You can receive Neighborhood monthly by subscribing to the Gazette. One year's introductory subscription: \$3. Make checks payable to the Gazette.

Here is a list of the new neighborhood commissioners west of the park:

Commission 3A (Georgetown)

- Dist. 2 - Grosvenor Chapman, 3335 Que, NW
- Dist. 3 - Margaret Oppenheimer, 3248 O, NW
- Dist. 4 - Sara Blunt, 3200 P, NW
- Dist. 5 - Olcott Denning, 1510 Dunbarton Rk. Ct, NW
- Dist. 6 - Donald Shannon, 1020 29th, NW

Commission 3B (Glover Park-Foxhall)

- Dist. 1 - Roger Mingo, 2230 Hall Pl, NW
- Dist. 2 - Elizabeth Gibbons, 2303 38th NW
- Dist. 3 - Michael Fitch, 2428 39th, NW
- Dist. 4 - Robert Kenney, 4113 W, NW
- Dist. 5 - Chuck Clinton, 1813 37th, NW
- Dist. 6 - Harvey Garn, 4441 Volta Pl, NW

Commission 3C (Cleveland Park - Cathedral Heights)

- Dist. 1 - Rosalyn Graves, 3736 Woodley Pl, NW
- Dist. 2 - Ruth Hausen, 2800 Woodley Pl, NW
- Dist. 3 - Neal Krucoff, 2823 28th, NW
- Dist. 4 - Lindsley Williams, 2704 Courtland Pl, NW
- Dist. 5 - Katherine Coram, 3831 Rodman, NW
- Dist. 6 - Kay McGrath, 3312 Roland Pl, NW
- Dist. 7 - Sam Smith, 3149 Newark NW
- Dist. 8 - Charles VanWay, Jr., 3900 Cathedral Ave, NW
- Dist. 9 - Thomas Corcoran, Jr., 3842 Macomb, NW
- Dist. 10 - Harry Bowen, 2825 Bellevue, NW

Commission 3D (Spring Valley)

- Dist. 1 - Bertha Greenebaum, 4201 Cathedral Ave, NW
- Dist. 2 - Dudley

- Dist. 3 - John Gill, 4907 Tilden, NW
- Dist. 4 - Thomas Schell, 5511 Hawthorne Pl, NW
- Dist. 5 - Khristi Agniel, 5104 Sherrier Pl, NW
- Dist. 6 - David Smith
- Dist. 7 - Barbara Fant, 3210 45th, NW

Commission 3E (Friendship)

- Dist. 1 - Barbara Mower, 4436 48th, NW
- Dist. 2 - Carol Gidley, 4700 47th, NW
- Dist. 3 - Mary Barry, 4308 Brandywine, NW
- Dist. 4 - Eleanor Hansen, 3941 Garrison, NW
- Dist. 4 - Bobbi Blok, 4201 Mass Ave, NW

Commission 3F

- Dist. 2 - Stephen Belcher, 2935 Tilden, NW
- Dist. 3 - Jacob Kolker, 2939 Van Ness, NW
- Dist. 4 - M. Sindler
- Dist. 5 - Ron Linton, 4830 Broad Branch Rd, NW
- Dist. 6 - Barry Zamoff, 4905 Reno Rd, NW
- Dist. 7 - Mark Novitch, 3558 Albemarle, NW
- Dist. 8 - Ruth Dixon, 3715 Upton St, NW

Commission 3G (Chevy Chase)

- Dist. 1 - Eliza E. Callas, 7080 Oregon Ave, NW
- Dist. 2 - Leslie Palmer, 6237 30th, NW
- Dist. 3 - Irving Schenker, 2942 McKinley, NW
- Dist. 4 - Al Gollin, 3223 Morrison, NW
- Dist. 5 - Harriet Burg, 3617 Patterson, NW
- Dist. 6 - Sarah Jane Elpern, 3607 Legation, NW
- Dist. 7 - Mary Beins, 3812 Kana-wha, NW
- Dist. 8 - Karl Mautner, 3717 Huntington, NW

HERE are preliminary results for the contested Ward Three seats on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions:

Georgetown

- District 3: Margaret Oppenheimer 87, Mary Abbott 17
- District 4: Sara Blunt 166, Peter Belin 84, James Sollins 14
- District 5: Olcott Denning 108, Peggy Seeley 63
- District 6: Donald Shannon 103, Wayne Torrey 74, Paula Echeverria 28

Glover-Foxhall

- District 2: Elizabeth Gibbons 65, Chester Sturm 40
- District 3: Michael Fitch 64, Mark Looney 51, Gary Melasky 6
- District 6: Harvey Garn 132, Gertrude Maloney 94

Cleveland Park-Cathedral

- District 4: Linsley Williams 137, Glen Beyer 70
- District 5: Katherine Coram 128, Hugh Allen 97
- District 7: Sam Smith 168, Richard Hollander 37

Spring Valley

- District 1: Bertha Greenbaum 101, Pamela Rojan 28

Friendship

- District 4: Eleanor Hansen 64, Nevzer Stacy 27

Forest Hills

- District 4: M. Sindler 58, Elizabeth Corliss 39
- District 6: Barry Zamoff 69, James Vaughter 49, J. Barbara Burrus 29
- District 8: Ruth Dixon 60, Luther Jones III 37

Chevy Chase

- District 1: Eliza Callas 130, Damon Cordom 58
- District 5: Harriet Burg 189, Robert Mueller 61
- District 6: Sara Elpern 163, Donald Lief 42, Herliss Tilman 15
- District 8: Karl Mautner 81, Benny Kass 64

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tzedek Tzedek is sponsoring a series of lecture/coffee houses on the Middle East. The coming program includes:

Mar 7: The History of Arab Nationalism. Irene Gendzier, Boston University.

Mar 21: The Palestinian National Movement.

Apr 4: The UN and Palestine and Israel in 1945-1976. I.F. Stone.

The programs begin at 7 pm at Quaker House, 2121 Decatur House, NW. Info: 265-6357.

GRANT applications from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities are now available. Local arts organizations are eligible for grants of up to \$10,000. The deadline for picking up applications is March 15 and the deadline for submission is March 22. Info: DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, 1329 E NW, DC 20004 (347-5905)

JIM WALLIS AND WES Michelson will speak on radical evangelical Christianity on March 28 at the Community for Creative Nonviolence, 1329 N NW, 7 pm. The talk is free and will be preceded by a pot luck supper at 6 pm. Info: 243-9813

THE WOMEN'S LEGAL DEFENSE Fund points out that there have been sev-

eral changes in the law of importance to local women:

- o The ruling of the DC Corporation Counsel that women in DC may use any name they choose as long as they do it consistently and without intent to commit fraud.

- o Under Title IX of the Education Amendments, women and girls can no longer be discriminated against in education.

- o The Equal Credit Opportunity Act became effective last fall. It prohibits sex discrimination by all commercial and retail lenders.

Women with questions about these or other laws may call the WLDF at 1424 16th NW, 232-7072

THE COMMITTEE FOR LEAD Elimination has published a pamphlet call "Tenants' Rights on Lead Removal," which explains renters' rights and what action to take to get lead paint removed. Info: LEAD, 2125 13th NW, 20009 (835-4152)

THE DC PROJECT on Community Legal Assistance and Street Law, 412 5th St. NW, DC 20001, has a new how-to-do-it manual available on Advisory Neighborhood Commission. For a copy call 624-8235. Cost \$5.50.

THE DC chapter of the American Red Cross is in need of volunteers. Info: 857-3402.

THE TWO-W PROJECT which serves the feeder schools to Wilson and Western High will have its congress on March 11 at Adams Elementary School, 19th and California NW at 730 pm. Info: 785-8380. Two-W also needs volunteers. Call 724-4856.

THE CHILDREN'S FREE Community has openings for several children age 4½ - 8½. Info: Gail at 223-0522 or Tom, 387-1332.

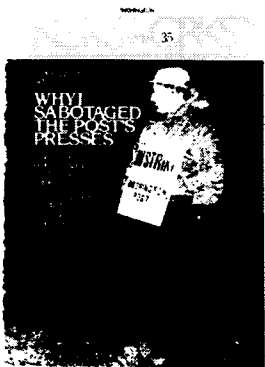
A NEW QUARTERLY PUBLICATION that is being aimed at Washington consumers is being put out by the Washington Center for the Study of Services. Call Consumer's Checkbook, the magazine will rate a wide variety of consumer services. The first issue deals with health. \$9.50 a year from Suite 303, 1910 K NW, DC 20006

THE WOMAN'S MEDICAL CENTER, 1712 Eye, NW (#704) provides a variety of services for victims of sexual assault/rape. WMC also has a self-defense course for women and speakers' available. For more information call 298-9227.

THE CENTER FOR INQUIRY and Discovery has prepared a slide show to demonstrate to local audiences the kind of programs that are possible at a children's "hands on" center where the emphasis is on exploration through active involvement. The center is looking for space for such a "hands on" project and the center staff will present its slide show at no charge for any interested group. Info: 549-2975.

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BUYING YOUR HOUSE: Shows you how to evaluate all the different aspects of the house you're thinking about buying. How to detect problems. How to save money and energy. \$8.95 (Only \$5.35 if you buy another book at our regular prices)

ABOUT WASHINGTON

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THE OFFICIAL BICENTENNIAL WASHINGTON PICTURE MAPS. John Wiebenson, creator of Archihorse, has drawn these useful and delightful maps that not only tell you how to get around the city but what to do while you're doing it. \$1.50

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UNCOVER DC: The folks at the Washington Review of the Arts have put out this useful and opinionated guide to the arts and good living in DC. Includes a silk screened cover by Lou Stovall. \$2.50

MATERIALS FOR THE STUDY OF WASHINGTON: This annotated bibliography of books and materials about the city is the most valuable thing of its kind to come along. Compiled by Perry Fisher. \$2.50

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HI there, boys and girls, it's time for another exciting story from the files of Washington DC, All-American City. When we last saw Uncle Walt, Cousin Sterling and all the gang, the Reverend Doug Moore was sneaking stealthily down the fifth floor corridor towards the mayor's office, Knighton Stanley and his Bicentennial troops were huddled shoeless around the campfires of Ft. Lincoln hoping to make it through the winter, and Big Bill McKinney was searching for something in the rubble of Lorton Landfill. As we begin this episode, half of the gang is up at Catholic University and the other half at the House Office Building. It is the night of the big Democratic Caucus. Little Johnny Unity is the first to speak:

"Gee Willikers, Cousin Sterling. How can there be two uncommitted slates?"

"It's simple, Johnny. There are various levels of commitment. Our slate is more uncommitted than theirs. Take lumbering John Hechinger for example. He's so uncommitted he's moving his headquarters to Prince Georges County."

"Gee, you can't beat that."

"No, Johnny you can't. Of course, you'll hear Uncle Walt claim that he's uncommitted. He says he has a long record of non-commitment. But I don't believe he'll stick to it."

"But I heard that Uncle Walt said that if they elect his slate, he promises they won't vote in New York City at all."

"Promises promises. He's got this plan that when the chairman of the convention asks for the vote, he's going to stand up and say, 'The great city of Washington DC casts 17 absentions but will produce by the end of this historic session a comprehensive plan for the reorganization of the delegation to improve the delivery of delegate services.' But that's just a ruse. He's secretly committed to Hubert Humphrey."

"Who are we secretly committed to, Cousin Sterling?"

"No time for that now, Johnny. I have to go make sure our openly selected list of delegates gets elected before anyone else is nominated."

As Cousin Sterling moves off, an elderly woman turns to Johnny Unity and asks him the dramatic question:

"Is this the Medicaid rally?"

"Gee, ma'am, no. This is a Democratic Caucus. There's a Harris caucus in the bathroom and a Carter meeting in the broom closet but I don't know of no Medicaid rally."

"Well, somebody on a bus told me to get on and come to the Medicaid meeting but I don't see nothin' but some sick old politicians."

"Maybe that's what he meant. Let's ask Sister Barbara. Hey, Sis, you know of any Medicaid Rally?"

"Sure, we're having a rally to protest the cuts in Medicaid in the room down the hall with the big sign on it that says, 'Open Slate.'"

"But gee, that's Uncle Walt's meeting and he's the one who cut Medicaid."

"No time for that, Johnny. Help me get these old folks out of here. They're in the wrong room."

(Sounds of shoving, canes tapping the floor, muffled cries)

"What are you going to do if you go to New York, Sis? Are you going to stay uncommitted?"

"You bet. When that convention chairman asks for my vote I'm going to lay it out straight to him. I'm going to tell him there are not going to be any votes until the convention deals with the endemic racism of our society and the failure to clarify the roles of the delegation and the chairman."

"Wow, you people really sound uncommitted. All we've got is no presidential candidate and a national committeeman moving his office to Prince Georges County."

"Right, Johnny. You ought to join us."

"Well, I'm still trying to make up my mind. The one question I've got is if this is a presidential preference primary how come you're not supposed to vote for a presidential candidate?"

"It's a matter of priorities, Johnny. What's more important? That voters get to choose between a just bunch of presidential candidates or help make the crucial decision as to whether Bill Lucy or John Hechinger become national committeeman?"

"Gee, I never thought of it that way."

"Well, you better start, Johnny. You'll never become a truly committed non-committed Democrat until you do."

"I'm gonna try, Sis. I'm sure gonna try."

(Music. Fade)

Listen in for our next exciting adventure when Johnny Unity asks Norval Perkins, "Gee, Mr. Perkins, is it true that if I take one candidate from column A and one from Column B my vote will be invalidated?"

Josiah X. Swampoodle
Purveyor of split infinitives for more than 35 years

Flotsam & Jetsam

IT has been reported in a local daily that I won the ANC election in my district by 179 to 112, for a total of 291, the highest in the city. In fact I won by 168 to 37, meaning a total turnout of 205, one of the highest but not the highest. And I almost won by only 103 to 100.

Wherein lies a tale. On election night after spending most of the day at the polls, I decided to go down to the Sheraton Park and watch the count. My wife said to me, "Don't you think you're taking this a little too seriously?" Having just finished Myra McPherson's "The Power Lovers," I almost took her seriously but, after all, she was holding a Sunday school teachers' meeting that night and I figured that if she was going to be tied up with the spiritual I could attend to the temporal a while longer.

So I drove down to the Sheraton Park, took a couple of escalators to the catacombs where the count was underway and chatted distractedly with some of the other candidates who were also waiting for word of victory or defeat. Finally the sheet with the results of the morning count for my district -- familiarly known in these parts as 3C07 -- turned up. My opponent had slaughtered me 75 to 11 on the morning count.

Since I had counted some 35 people coming to the polls before two pm whom I had encouraged to vote, I was apparently on the way to one of the most humiliating defeats imaginable. At least two dozen people had smiled pleasantly at me, murmured encouragement and then gone in and voted for my opponent. I had with flyers, coffees and telephone calls, organized the neighborhood against me. My opponent had barely campaigned. Harold Stassen never had it so bad.

With only a marginal amount of hope, I found Norval Perkins, the affable head of the board of elections. I told him what had happened and wondered whether, by some outside chance, the numbers might have been reversed. He was noncommittal but added my district to the growing number on his lists of recounts to be made.

Meanwhile the evening count was about to begin. This time I had to see it with my own eyes and I found the table where the initial sorting of ballots was being done. A candidate from another district held out his hand, "Let me be the first to congratulate you." I tried to explain to him that he didn't understand, that I had already crossed the political river Styx and would soon be seated at the Council of Losers commiserating with William Jennings Bryan, George McGovern, Cliff Alexander, Sam Harris, Tom Curtis and David Dabney.

The ballots were moved to another table and the count began. Something was wrong. I had won the evening count 93 to 26. I had watched each ballot. It was true.

I found Norval again. See, I told him, something must be wrong. He smiled the smile of one who long ago had made himself immune from the distress of petty harrassments. Little did I know that Norval at that moment was short two whole ballot boxes lost from the back of a pickup truck on their way to the Sheraton. Right or wrong, at least the ballots of District Seven were there. He tried to soothe me: "Maybe you just have more evening friends than morning friends."

I preferred to soothe myself. Even with the wrong count I figured that I had won by three votes. I was still in the running. Later, the local polling wizard Al Gollin, would explain to me that it was statistically improbable to have more evening friends than morning friends. The only trends you can count on, he explained, is that in a light turnout the vote in DC will split 50-50 morning and evening and in a heavy turnout it will be weighted somewhat towards the evening count with more lower income voters turning out in the evening.

I found the table where the recount was going on. I had indeed won 75 to 11 and not the other way around. With

(please turn to page 16)



THE Washington Star article of January 4th which inferred the misuse of food stamp funds by community credit unions had several incorrect statements.

The article stated that a credit union president had resigned. No president or any board member has resigned.

Any audit conducted should be of the complete food stamp program. The Star article failed to give the full story. There was no mention of the service fees due to the credit unions and American Federation of Community Credit Unions by DHR in the amount of \$165,000 which is an accumulated total since May 1975.

Also, there was no mention of problems with forged checks, the large crowds during the first week of each month, delays on food stamps delivery and unavailable stock for certain denominations. The fee, seventy-five cents per transaction, does not cover the expense of vendors involved with providing service.

In fact, some credit unions have to borrow funds to meet check cashing needs of food stamp participants.

The Washington, DC community credit unions are not just vendors selling food stamps. They are viable community financial organizations providing several vital services to their membership which includes a large segment of limited in-

come residents. Collectively, the community credit unions currently represent 24,184 members who have currently saved \$3,314,455 and made loans to 36,000 members totalling over \$19 million since 1965.

SHIRLEY A. GRASTY
Managing Director
American Federation of
Community Credit Unions



THE MOUSE THAT SQUEAKED

The Council & the Budget

ONCE again the city council has attempted to deal with the city's budget - and failed. Trimming a mere 4% off the mayor's proposal, the council did not even manage to reduce the growth in the budget to the inflation rate, let alone get rid of some of the accumulated bureaucratic blubber that is contributing to the rapid deterioration of the city's fiscal cardiovascular system. Some council members, led by Marion Barry, wanted to do more but the majority took the easy way out, postponing confrontation with the city's budget reality.

There were things that weren't hardly talked about - like that little item of \$56 million in coming expenses (Metro deficits and pay raise increases) that the mayor wants to cover with a commuter tax he probably won't get. Then there were other things that were talked about - efficiency, waste etc. - but the talk evaporated when it came time to change the figures. Every time the council started to do something, a department head or interest group showed up on the fifth floor of city hall, and the money was restored. As one observer noted, the council couldn't look a city official in the face and then cut his budget.

So it settled for what city councils have traditionally done: trim the proposed increases and call it a budget cut. It just ain't so. The budget keeps rising.

An indication of the problem came out of Philadelphia the other day. There a study by the Philadelphia Commission for Effective Criminal Justice reported that the city was paying \$261 million a year to deal with crime and criticized this as wasteful and duplicative. They should have studied DC. Although Philadelphia has nearly three times as many people as DC, our criminal justice budget is about 80% that of Philadelphia. Our police budget is 96% that of Philadelphia.

But the council almost went through the budget without cutting the police funds at all. Only in the late hours did Public Safety Committee head Willie Hardy condescend to surrender a paltry \$1 million to help cover the projected deficit. That's less than one percent of the police budget.

With Chief Cullinane haunting the halls of the District Building, Councilmember Arrington Dixon being called at 7 am to come down to the Fourth District for a before-breakfast lecture on the budget and Willie Hardy running interference, the bobby lobby got what it wanted. At the rest of the government's expense.

But the cops weren't alone. Joe Yeldell held a news conference to blast Polly Shackleton for daring to save some money. Sanitation workers showed up to put on the squeeze. And even the school system joined the chorus: don't ask where the money is going, just give it to us.

The council should have known that following the mayor's submission of the budget is no time to do any serious budget cutting. The political and time pressures are too great. If the council had wanted to cut the city government it should have started as soon as it passed last year's budget, redesigning the government into something we can live with.

It could be done. For example, the city government could be totally reorganized at a lower staffing level to take effect three years from now. Those whose jobs were to be abolished would know three years in advance. To encourage early departure from these jobs, the government could pay a sizable bonus for those who quit early, a one-time expense that could be recovered by future savings.

As things stand now, the city government will go just as far as it can and then, when the money runs out, will be forced to make sudden riffs at a moment least desirable for either the government or those involved.

And things will stand as they are now, as long as the city council and mayor continue to look the other way when the real numbers are shown them.

MORE CITY HALL SECRETS

The mayor's office has refused to release the home addresses or even the wards of the eleven persons nominated to serve on the DC University Board of Trustees. The mayor's executive secretary, Martin Schaller, also refused to tell the Gazette the names of those nominated to the board by the university nominating committee but not selected by the mayor. Schaller described this as a "personnel action" and not public information. Our position is that the place of residence of public officials is public business and that the actions of official nominating commissions are public information. We are making a formal request since, as Schaller curtly told us, "If you want anything, put it in writing." If nothing else, we would like to see the list of the 20 unselected nominees to find out who Walter Washington considered less qualified for the job than ex-school board member Albert Rosenfield, one of his final choices.

FLOTSAM CONTINUED

the afternoon count the total was 168 to 37. I went to have a drink at a friend's house.

The next day I went down to the Board of Elections to compile the results of the various elections. As I was thumbing through the Third Ward, absent-mindedly recording the results in District Seven, I found myself writing down 179 votes for myself and 112 votes for Richard Hollander, my opponent. Where the hell did those numbers come from? I looked at the figures again. There were three columns instead of the normal two. Whoever had computed the total had added the three columns together which, I figured out, represented (1) the incorrect morning count (2) the correct recount and (3) the evening count. The morning ballots had been counted twice -- once rightly and once wrongly.

In fact, the errors would not have changed the results. They did change the margin and they gave the impression that 42% more people had voted than actually had. But what makes me still shiver is the thought that as a neophyte candi-

date two things had happened to me that aren't even meant to happen in Chicago: my votes were given en masse to my opponent and nearly half the votes were counted twice.

It all added up to one more piece of evidence to support a basic thesis about government that I have long espoused: much of what goes wrong is not the result of maliciousness or misguided design but a simple inability to add or subtract. As my son's math teacher would have put it, the government "needs help on number facts."

Well, I guess it's just like my old Coast Guard executive officer used to say whenever anything went wrong: "It's all good training." In all the years I had covered politics I had never paid much attention to the counting. It always seemed like the most boring end of the business and besides there seemed to be enough people involved to prevent anything bad from happening. Now at last I know what politicians mean when they warn: watch the count.

- SAM SMITH